system. The plans of all our cathedrals were tetrastyle, and he mentioned the majority of them by name, as having their height exactly corresponding with this dimension. The same rule was found to exist at Bolngna; and lastly, and the professor appeared to have some pleasure in drawing attention to the circumstance, in our own cathedral of St. Paul. He then said, that the only exception to this rule, which he was aware of, was Westminster Abbey. In that building, the actual height made the length of each side of the triangle greater than the four squares, by a dimension equal to two squares additional; thus it agreed not with its tetrastyle arrangement, but with the dipteral and hexastyle, the equilateral triangle, including the cloister on the south side, and an equal space of ground outside the building on the north.*

AWARDS OF OFFICIAL REFEREES.

BACK YARDS AND AREAS.

Messrs. Hayard and Nixon desired to erect a water-closet over part of the yard at the back of a house in Suffolk-street, Pall Mall, and another above it on the one pair floor, or third story, to which the district surveyor objected, on the ground that "the erection of the said water-closets would reduce the size of the said yard or area to less than three-quarters of a square, such being the smallest size, exclusive of any building thereon, permitted by schedule K, of the said Act, for back-yards or open spaces attached to dwelling-houses hereafter to be built."

He concurred in an application to the referees, requesting them to take into consideration, that the said house was an already built house, and that no part thereof was to be rebuilt, and that the water-closets could not be conveniently built elsewhere; and also, that little or no sacrifice of light and air would be occasioned to the said house by reason of the said water-closets being built.

The referees determined "that it will be contrary to the said Act to occupy with Building any part of the existing back-yard or open space above the level of the floor of the third story" (or one pair) "of the house in question."

STREETS AND ALLEYS.

Mr. Furby proposed to erect dwelling-houses on each side of a plot of ground in Bethnal-green, to be approached by a paved court not less than 20 feet in width, but equivalent to the height of the buildings, and having one entrance only, where he proposed placing iron railing and gates. The Act requires that every alley shall have two entrances; applicant was advised that, by reason of his inclosing the place in question, and his right to exclude the public from it, that it was not to be deemed a public place within the meaning of the said Act. The referees decided that, notwithstanding the intention to place gates, the proposed court would be an alley within the meaning of the Act.

SHED BUILDINGS.

An open shed belonging to Messrs. Enderby, at East Greenwich, used as a rope-walk, was partially destroyed by fire in March, 1845. On reinstating the said buildings, objection having been made to the materials thereof by the surveyor of the district, the matter was referred to the said official referees, who determined "that if the shed in question be used as a rope-walk only, and be separated from any other building by one or more sufficient brick or stone walls, without any bond or other timbers therein next the said rope-walk, and without any more than one opening, or doorway in any such wall, and having no wood lintel, or other woodwork in or within one foot of the said openings or doorways, then such rope-walk will not be contrary to the provisions of the Metropolitan Buildings Act."

Since the date of the award, the repairs have been continued to the said building, and in execution thereof the flat or gutter on part of the shed has been formed of felt on deal boarding in continuation of the gutter on an existing part. And for the purposes of the trade of the said Messrs. Enderby, the shed has been extended in width; to which proceedings the district surveyor objected.

The referees awarded "that inasmuch as the works in question are proposed in continuation of an existing long range of shed buildings used for the purposes of a rope-walk only, and such buildings being also insulated except at one end, and being at that end severed from other buildings, and those other buildings in the same possession and occupation therewith, by brick walls having iron doors in them and by void spaces, we will forbear to make any award thereon, and that it is our opinion that the surveyor of the district will be justified in permitting the said works to be done, as described in the said requisition, and shewn in the (said) drawing."

A number of important questions in connection with the revision of the Act, the constitution of the office of metropolitan buildings, &c., have been urged upon us, and will receive early consideration.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

THE WILHELMA—RAILWAY TERMINI.

A MEETING was held on Monday evening last, Mr. Papworth, vice-president, in the chair. Among the presents received was a valuable collection of Parliamentary reports, on matters connected with architecture and building, from Mr. Kendall, and an account of the abbey church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Dorchester, recently published by the Oxford Architectural Society.

Mr. G. Bailey, the hon. secretary, read a letter addressed by Mr. David Roberts, R. A., to Mr. Britton, relative to the east wall of Roslyn chapel. The aisle at the east end is wider than the side aisles, and the vaulting is terminated against the wall by large corbels of singular design. Mr. Roberts contended that the east wall had been pulled down, and set further back, to give three feet more room.

Mr. Roberts afterwards addressed the meeting at some length, in defence of Sir Walter Scott, against a remark casually made by Mr. Britton at the last meeting, to the effect that, in ten lines of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel" referring to Roslyn, there were ten mistakes. The principal point was, whether or not the "ten barons" in their mail, were buried in the chapel.

The conversation becoming rather too extended on this point, Mr. Tite humorously terminated it by quoting two lines from one of the notes to the poem:—

"The knights are dead; their swords are rust,
Their spirit 's with the Lord,—I trust."

Professor Donaldson read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Herr Zanth, on the subject of the building lately erected by Herr Zanth for the king of Wirtemburg, and called the *Wilhelma*, from the name of the royal owner. This building, which has been spoken of as a conservatory in the moreeque style, may rather be called a royal pavilion in the midst of four conservatories, accompanied by porticos, steps, terraces, and flower gardens. The pavilion is constructed of squared stone, in courses, of varied colour—white, yellow, and violet. The covering is of copper, partly gilt: the conservatories and porticos are of cast-iron, of Arabian character, extremely slender and richly ornamented. The conservatories are divided into two aisles containing rare flowers, and abut against two pavilions surmounted by glazed octagonal cupolas for tropical plants. The length of the whole is 323 French feet. At the end of the conservatories commence the porticos, which form the inclosure of a flower garden for the private use of the king. The pavilion of habitation, which is also for the use of the king alone, consists of a vestibule, an oriental court with a fountain, picture gallery, divan, sleeping and dressing-room, the grand saloon, *salle à manger*, and offices, also a bath with stalactitic vaults enriched with colour, gilding, and lights. Throughout the building the most brilliant colours, painted glass, and other enrichments are profusely employed.

The interior is just now completed, and the whole will be ready to deliver to the king in the spring. "It is hardly necessary to say," remarks M. Zanth, "that the work has demanded the most intense study, every detail, however small, requiring delineation. For the interior of the saloon alone there were 120 drawings. The labour has exceeded my physical powers, and accounts for the present bad state of my health."

The king, being determined to prevent premature public criticism, rigorously prohibits the admission of any person to the building. M. Zanth has been appointed the king's architect, and made *Chevalier de l'ordre royal de la Couronne de Wurttemberg*.

Mr. Fowler read a paper on the proposed lines of railway which affected the metropolis, about to be submitted to Parliament. He stated, that he was indebted to Mr. Austin, the engineer, honorary secretary to the Metropolitan Improvement Society, for the facts that he was about to lay before the meeting, who, with a laudable zeal in the cause of improvement, had been at considerable pains to prepare a plan of the whole of those lines for which the deposits had been completed. He need scarcely say, that there had been a whole host of other schemes, which, fortunately, had not survived the fatal effects of the late panic. Of those that remained, it appeared from the plan, that there were twenty-one different lines, comprising 100 miles of proposed railway, within a circle of 5 miles from St. Paul's. The spaces scheduled for termini, within a circle of 1¼ miles of St. Paul's, together with that necessary for the construction of so much of the lines, constitute an area little short of 200 acres! To form a more vivid idea of the extent of this area, it may be stated, that it exceeds that portion of London extending from High-street, Whitechapel, to St. Paul's Cathedral, included between Leadenhall-street, Cornhill, the Poultry, and Cheapside, on the north, and the river Thames on the south. It constitutes an area equal to one-third of the city of London, and little less than one-half of that devastated by the conflagration of 1666. On a moderate calculation, it would involve the destruction of between 9,000 and 10,000 houses, and cause an expenditure, for the purchase of property alone, of about 15 millions sterling!!!

Mr. Fowler stated, that a memorial on the subject had been forwarded to Lord Lincoln, first Commissioner of Woods and Forests, by the Metropolitan Improvement Society, praying that the Metropolitan Improvement Commission would take the subject into their earliest consideration; and it behoved, not only professional men, but all who desired to see a right direction given to this extraordinary movement, to second the prayer of the society, that this branch of the general subject of railway communication should be considered as a separate and distinct whole, in order that a comprehensive and systematic plan might result from what was now a heap of confusion, arising from the fact, that each line had been separately laid down by its respective company, without reference to, or knowledge of what was being proposed by the other.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Ancient Monuments of Spalrto and Salona in Dalmatia.—On the present state of those splendid structures of the Diocletian age, of which Salona was called by the Greek writers (*Porphyrogenitus*) a little Constantinople—the following may be noticed:—As these palaces and temples have experienced, like most others, a subversion by many succeeding catastrophes, their complete elucidation cannot take place by mere study *above* ground—but has to be followed up to that depth, at which they are partly buried. Notwithstanding, however, the vast extent of the Palace of Diocletian at Spalato, and that gorgeous position of Salona, no plan has yet been traced of these splendid art-remains, and the so-called museum at Spalato does not contain but the most trivial rubbish. It was not but lately, that Government have prevented persons from using these ruins most shamefully. During the long reign of Venice, every Conte or Provetore used them as a quarry for his palaces in the metropolis, and columns and architraves were removed in that way. The French were not much better, and until the late appointment of a conservator, the Austrians committed the same Vandalism. In stepping into the area before the temple and the vestibule of Diocletian's palace in Spalato, the beholder is horrified by those large square holes,

* In report of second lecture, page 16 from conclusion, *for* "Normans" *read* "Norman."

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